

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **National Guard joins Rapid City community in Day of Caring**

By 1st Lt. Chad Carlson  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Members of the South Dakota National Guard were among nearly 1,000 community members volunteering to help their neighbors through the Rapid City Day of Caring, Sept. 1.

Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need.

The SDNG's five teams of volunteers, comprised of 48 service members, worked on projects benefiting the elderly, disabled and nonprofit organizations that included landscaping, yardwork, painting, and minor maintenance.

"The National Guard was founded to help the citizens of our communities and we're here today to help reinforce that tradition," said Lt. Col. Pete Jerzak, commander of the 82nd Civil Support Team.

The 82nd had 13 members assisting Stacey, a Rapid City homeowner with disabilities preventing her from taking on the projects the unit completed.

Those projects included the installation of a drainage pipe and outdoor lighting, landscaping, yardwork and other outdoor maintenance-related work.

"This means the world to me," said Stacy, through tears of gratitude. "I can no longer do these things and I'm without the income to pay something else to do them."

Another SDNG team, comprised of members of the Joint Force Headquarters human resource office, spent the day painting the exterior of Darlene's home, an elderly Rapid City homeowner.

"This is wonderful," said Darlene, who spent 17 years as a United Way volunteer herself. "They're all so nice."

Additionally, a team of Camp Rapid employees removed a row of overgrown shrubs, trimmed trees and cleaned up the property of Love INC, a Rapid City nonprofit that works with area churches to help those in need.

The 109th Regional Support Group's team did landscaping and yardwork at the Boy Scouts' Rapid City office, while a team comprised of the members of the JFHQ personnel department removed and trimmed trees from the WellFully and Wellspring, Inc. property.

"Today, 1,000 people have come together for a common cause to do common good in a community – for people they may or may not know, may or may not meet – that's powerful," said Col. Mike Oster, SDARNG director of strategic plans and the chair of the 2016 Rapid City United Way Campaign, while

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addressing the crowd of volunteers gathered at the Day of Caring kickoff luncheon. “Today, you will make a difference, you will change a life, and I assure you that tomorrow, someone’s life will be better for what you do today.

“You are giving your most valuable resource – your time,” Oster said. “It’s the one thing you have in your life you can’t create any more of, but your parting with it today for the greater good.”

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**160901-Z-FO377-120:** U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dale Gadbois, left, and 1st Lt. Doug Johnson, members of the South Dakota National Guard’s 82nd Civil Support Team, install a drainage pipe for a local homeowner during the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-FO377-124:** Members of the South Dakota National Guard’s 82nd Civil Support Team volunteer for the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-FO377-003:** U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kyle Wilson, South Dakota Army National Guard, paints the exterior of a home during the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-FO377-016:** Members of the South Dakota National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters human resource office volunteer for the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-FO377-045:** U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Chad Mercy, South Dakota Army National Guard, removes trees from property of Love INC during the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-ZZ999-001:** Members of the South Dakota National Guard's Camp Rapid Team volunteer for the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)



**160901-Z-FO377-070:** U.S. Army Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, South Dakota Army National Guard, prepares to remove a tree stump from the property of the Boy Scouts Black Hills Area Council office during the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-FO377-080:** Members of the South Dakota National Guard's 109th Regional Support Group volunteer for the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-FO377-092:** U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Bjorn Henstein, South Dakota Army National Guard, removes trees from property of WellFully and Wellspring, Inc. during the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



**160901-Z-FO377-100:** Members of the South Dakota National Guard's personnel department volunteer for the Day of Caring in Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 1, 2016. Day of Caring is a volunteer-oriented event organized by the United Way of the Black Hills that encourages volunteerism in the community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail [ng.sd.sdarnng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarnng.list.pao@mail.mil)